

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING: * **MILK PRODUCTION** * **DAIRY PRODUCTS** * **ANNUAL HATCHERY**
* **SLAUGHTER** * **CATTLE ON FEED** * **COLD STORAGE** * **CHICKEN & EGGS**

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for March 2004 totaled 128 million pounds, up 11 percent from last month but down 6 percent from March 2003. Average number of milk cows, at 109,000 head, was down 2,000 head from last month and down 11,000 head from March 2003. Milk per cow averaged 1,175 pounds, up 140 pounds from last month and up 40 pounds from last year.

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003.

February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR MARCH, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Production 2/		2004 as % of 2003
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,681	1,708	1,850	1,810	3,110	3,091	99
IL	113	108	1,670	1,650	189	178	94
IN	147	145	1,720	1,730	253	251	99
KY	120	109	1,135	1,175	136	128	94
MO	131	123	1,340	1,345	176	165	94
OH	260	260	1,500	1,520	390	395	101
VA	116	101	1,360	1,450	158	146	92
WI	1,263	1,244	1,530	1,520	1,932	1,891	98
20 State Total	7,810	7,714	1,666	1,656	13,014	12,776	98

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U. S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, FEBRUARY 2004

PRODUCT	Feb. 2003	Jan. 2004 1/	Feb. 2004	Percent of Feb. 03 Jan. 04	
	(000) Pounds			Percent	
BUTTER	128,362	131,859	105,739	82	80
CHEESE					
American Types 2/	285,649	321,380	298,807	105	93
Mozzarella	218,084	244,677	236,598	108	97
All Other Types 3/	149,783	169,794	165,291	110	97
Total	653,516	735,851	700,696	107	95
	(000) Gallons			Percent	
FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream (Hard)	70,615	59,132	65,693	93	111
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	5,505	4,403	4,641	84	105
MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS					
Ice Cream Mix	40,966	34,788	37,945	93	109
Yogurt Mix	3,238	2,590	2,730	84	105

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. 3/ Includes Swiss, Cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

**BROILER-TYPE CHICKS: NUMBER HATCHED BY MONTH,
19 SELECTED STATES and UNITED STATES, 2003**

State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
AL	102,648	91,395	104,146	102,088	106,392	104,576	105,661
AR	110,967	101,976	111,793	106,918	112,964	109,937	111,352
DE	12,643	11,735	12,621	13,228	13,656	13,231	13,188
FL	5,756	5,224	5,899	5,668	5,587	4,808	4,874
GA	111,377	102,222	115,864	112,814	117,831	117,076	118,995
KY	23,808	22,105	24,339	23,573	24,673	24,314	24,218
LA ¹				13,502	13,739	14,022	14,446
MD	35,138	32,096	34,248	34,559	35,666	34,221	34,497
MS	70,342	63,505	70,801	69,272	70,870	71,296	71,521
NC	65,985	59,258	67,642	67,214	70,083	67,882	64,958
OK	22,674	21,296	23,639	22,918	23,217	23,026	23,159
PA	12,471	11,185	12,085	12,800	13,025	13,023	13,030
SC	17,004	15,664	17,287	17,018	17,065	16,681	16,007
TX	54,754	48,505	54,589	52,510	55,723	53,771	53,685
VA	23,467	21,995	24,632	23,880	24,658	23,724	23,890
CA, LA, MO, TN & WV ²	70,906	64,651	74,377	59,918	63,653	61,310	62,077
19 Sts ³	739,940	672,812	753,962	737,880	768,802	752,898	755,558
Oth Sts ⁴	19,734	20,737	20,392	22,758	24,011	21,781	22,280
US 2003	759,674	693,549	774,354	760,638	792,813	774,679	777,838

State	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
AL	107,855	103,395	101,931	96,042	108,364	1,234,493
AR	112,574	107,587	108,555	102,438	112,029	1,309,090
DE	14,116	13,431	12,770	12,511	13,515	156,645
FL	4,944	4,801	4,977	4,781	4,926	62,245
GA	119,959	113,442	113,151	106,271	119,326	1,368,328
KY	25,388	24,135	23,397	21,814	25,181	286,945
LA	13,957	13,212	13,992	13,529	14,293	
MD	34,354	32,131	30,669	29,951	31,998	399,528
MS	71,917	67,410	65,873	62,361	70,434	825,602
NC	64,522	59,203	60,023	61,568	64,587	772,925
OK	23,152	21,767	21,899	21,616	23,245	271,608
PA	13,544	12,313	12,277	11,588	13,414	150,755
SC	16,226	15,584	15,645	14,162	13,851	192,194
TX	53,622	51,638	51,365	48,962	53,322	632,446
VA	23,813	22,312	22,395	22,501	24,113	281,380
CA, LA, MO, TN & WV	60,427	56,433	56,823	56,624	63,345	875,236
19 Sts ³	760,370	718,794	715,742	686,719	755,943	8,819,420
Oth Sts ⁴	23,667	20,687	19,219	20,908	24,151	260,325
US 2003	784,037	739,481	734,961	707,627	780,094	9,079,745

^{1/} States in the weekly hatchery estimating program. ^{2/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003. March 2003 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. March 2004 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 04 % of	
				March 2003	February 2004
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,048	1,803	2,109	103	117
Veal	16.5	14.5	14.2	86	98
Pork	1,623	1,571	1,801	111	115
Lamb & Mutton	18.1	14.8	22.1	122	149
Total U.S.	3,706	3,403	3,946	106	116
Total Kentucky	36.0	40.3	42.7	119	106

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. MARCH 2003 & 2004 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.6	1.7	1,408	1,458	873	874
Hogs	176.4	211.6	46,926	55,958	266	264
Sheep & Lambs	0.7	0.9	97	111	137	124
United States						
Cattle	2,773.9	2,871.2	3,421,834	3,493,209	1,234	1,217
Hogs	8,168.3	9,038.7	2,186,800	2,419,497	268	268
Sheep & Lambs	262.7	306.8	36,260	44,121	138	144

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

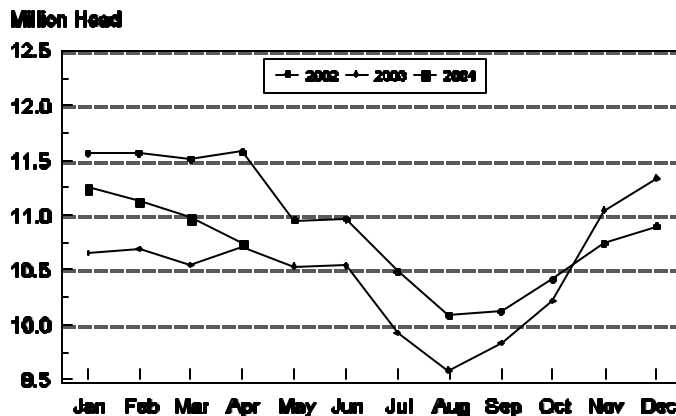
U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 and 3 percent below 2002.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for frozen beef, eggs and orange juice.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				Mar 04 as % of	
Commodity	Mar 31 2003	Feb 29 2004	Mar 31 2004	Mar 2003	Feb 2004
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	641,983	542,790	597,376	93	110
Turkey	549,278	471,682	515,027	94	109
Ducks	5,835	1,328	1,246	21	94
Total Frozen Poultry	1,197,096	1,015,800	1,113,649	93	110
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	403,148	435,033	418,839	104	96
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	42,971	57,123	51,658	120	90
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	530,499	482,758	454,701	86	94
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	951,890	932,527	888,748	93	95

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type		Mar. 2003	Mar. 2004	Mar. 04 % of Mar. 03
Egg Production				
Eggs Produced	(Million)	7,424	7,530	101
Average Layers	(000)	339,885	340,835	100
Eggs Per 100		2,184	2,209	101
Egg Type Hatchery				
Eggs Set Apr. 1	(000)	34,880	33,872	97
Chicks Hatched	(000)	36,775	37,530	102
Broiler Type				
Eggs Set Apr. 1	(000)	638,507	652,526	102
Chicks Hatched	(000)	774,354	791,149	102

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>